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Letter dated 30 November 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the statement by the President of the Security Council of 22 November 2006 (S/PRST/2006/47), by which the Council decided to renew the mandate of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) for a period of one year, until 31 December 2007. The Council also invited me to submit by 30 November 2006 new modalities for the mission of BONUCA for the new period.

I share the Security Council's concern over the recent deterioration of the security situation in the Central African Republic, which is aggravated not only by the ongoing rebellion in the north-eastern part of the country, but also by instability along the country's borders with Chad and the Sudan. These worrying developments constitute a serious handicap to efforts launched since the restoration of constitutional governance in 2005 to promote economic and political reforms with a view to achieving sustainable peace and development.

While primary responsibility for the improvement of conditions in the country rests with the Government and the people of the Central African Republic, the support and cooperation of the international community remains vital, not only to help consolidate progress made, but also to prevent a relapse into future conflict. The Council's decision to extend the mandate of BONUCA until 31 December 2007 therefore confirms the readiness of the United Nations to remain engaged in peace-stabilization efforts in the Central African Republic.

Accordingly, the activities of BONUCA in 2007 will focus principally on (a) supporting national reconciliation and dialogue, (b) assisting efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, (c) facilitating the mobilization of resources for national reconstruction, economic recovery, poverty alleviation and good governance, (d) mainstreaming a gender perspective into peacebuilding, in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and (e) reinforcing cooperation between the United Nations and member States of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community and other regional entities with a view to facilitating and strengthening initiatives aimed at addressing transborder insecurity in the subregion.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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